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mer. The important, and by far most interesting feature of the editor's labors, consists in the foot notes. Every source of authority has been explored. The decisions of the Supreme Court, the Circuit and District Courts, the Court of Claims, the decisions of the State Courts, the opinions of the Attorneys General and heads of departments have been collected, and the references, arranged under the respective sections of which they are the interpretation. The editor, Mr. Brightly, is well known at this bar, and throughout Pennsylvania, as the careful and diligent editor of Purdon's Digest in its latest and most useful editions. The plan attempted with the federal laws seems to be much of the same character. The sheets we have seen are most fully and thoroughly annotated, and leave little to be desired. Should the entire work be completed with the same thoroughness, and in a manner equally elaborate, it will certainly supply a want in our libraries which as yet remains unfilled.

REPORTS OF CASES ARGUED AND DETERMINED IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK; with notes, references, and an index. By E. DELAFIELD SMITH, Counsellor at Law. Volume II. New York: Lewis & Blood, law booksellers and publishers, No. 84 Nassau street. 1856. pp. 864.

This volume is quite equal to its predecessor. It contains judgments upon points of much practical importance in a large and enterprising commercial community. The amounts involved frequently appear trifling when compared with the intrinsic difficulty of the questions themselves. The Court of Common Pleas in New York is by no means a modern tribunal; until recently its jurisdiction was limited. By the Judiciary Act of 1847, the Code of 1848, and its amendments of 1849, 1851, and 1852, and the statute of 1854—the Common Pleas exercises in that city co-ordinate jurisdiction with the Supreme Court. But in addition to this general jurisdiction, it is invested with a peculiar and exclusive jurisdiction, which gives some special interest to these reports. It is the Court of Appeals for the Marine Court and the District (Justices') Courts; and, as to all suits commenced in those courts, it is the court of final resort. Its reports, therefore, contain the most complete and authoritative information concerning the practice and powers of those courts, and by analogy, of the Courts of Justices of the Peace and County Courts throughout the

State. It has also exclusive jurisdiction of cases under the Mechanics' Lien Law (except that proceedings may be instituted in the Marine or Justices' Courts upon liens not exceeding one hundred dollars, subject to review in this court). We propose in our next number to insert some abstracts of the cases in this volume, which will give our readers a better idea of the value of the reports than any mere commendation can do.

OFFICIAL OPINIONS OF THE ATTORNEYS GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES, advising the President and Heads of Departments in relation to their official duties, and expounding the Constitution, treaties with foreign governments, and with Indian tribes, and the public laws of the country. Edited by C. C. ANDREWS, Counsellor-at-Law. Vol. VII. Containing the opinions of Hon. Caleb Cushing, of Massachusetts, from October 9, 1854, to July 9, 1856. Washington: Robert Farnham, 1856. pp, 778.

We have read this volume with much pleasure. It contains many interesting and important opinions to both professional and lay readers. The labors of the editor are most satisfactory. His head notes lead at once to the very pith and substance of the opinions themselves, enabling the reader to see at one view the subject discussed and the matter settled. The head notes and index add to the interest and value of the volume, by rendering its contents accessible to the reader, without which they could only be known by much greater toil than most readers are willing to undergo. We propose, in the next number, to present one or two opinions of general interest; and we especially commend the attention of readers to "The Celebration of Marriages by Consuls," p. 18; "The Estate of Madame Sontag," p. 68; "The Appointment of Consuls," p. 242; "The Functions of Consuls," p. 342; "The Purchase of Public Lands by Aliens," p. 351; "Foreign Enlistments," p. 367; "General Scott's Case," p. 349; "United States' Judicial Authority in China," p. 495; "Eminent Domain of the United States," p. 571; "Copyright," p. 656; "Spurious Land Warrants," p. 657, as containing learned, able, elaborate, and thorough discussions by Mr. Attorney General Cushing, well worth the attentive study and perusal of any professional reader who wishes to be fully informed upon the particular subject matter of inquiry.